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Northampton Mercury

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2014

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Northampton Mercury

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2014

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KING HAPPY TO STAY IN TEMPORARY CONTROL

SEE SPORT PAGE

SPECIAL SCHOOL TARGETED IN LATEST IPAD BURGLARY

SEVEN SCHOOLS HAVE HAD EQUIPMENT TAKEN IN FOUR MONTHS

Thieves have stolen iPads from yet another primary school in Northampton.

Since the start of the latest school year, seven primary schools have been broken into and similar electrical equipment has been stolen.

The latest burglaries took place at Fairfield Special School and Woodvale Primary Academy, in Northampton, last Friday night.

Thieves stole between 15 and 20 iPad tablets from the school for children with physical or mental difficulties between 8.30pm and 9.20pm.

Police officers believe this incident may be linked to a burglary which happened earlier that evening, between 7.55pm and 9pm, at Woodvale Primary Academy, in Crestwood Road, Goldings, where a laptop computer was stolen.

In previous months, Hackleton, Kingsthorpe Grove, Bridgewater, Parklands and Walgrave primary schools have all been broken into and had iPads stolen.

Officers are asking the public to be aware of any offers of cut-price computer equipment. Anyone offered an iPad from anywhere other than a recognised dealer is asked to contact the police.

Crime prevention officer Mick Simpson said: "I would advise schools to make sure their alarm system is functioning correctly and ideally store computer equipment together in a securely locked room without windows.

"Many products, particularly iPads, now come with an integral tracking device which can help in the recovery of the item if it's stolen, so do make sure this is activated on all items."

Witnesses to either of these burglaries, or anyone with information, are asked to call Northamptonshire Police on 101.

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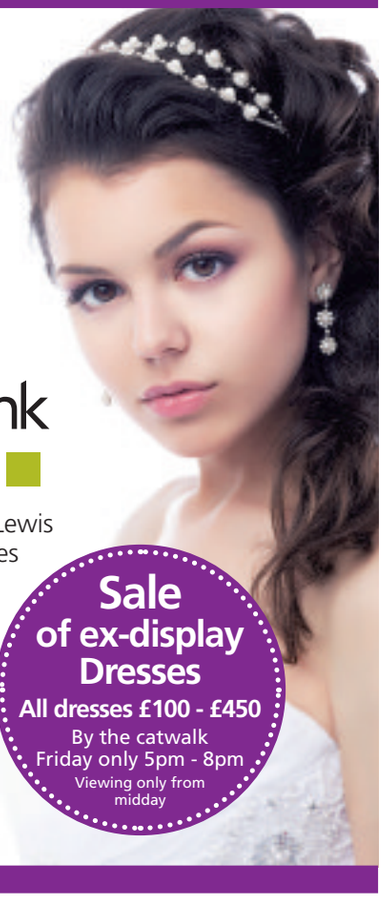

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M20

North Gate bus station is nearing completion

The finishing touches are being put to Northampton's new North Gate bus station which will open its doors to passengers in March.

The £7million development, on the site of the former Fishmarket (picture inset), will replace the ageing and dilapidated Greyfriars Bus Station.

The opening of North Gate on Sunday, March 2, will pave the way for the demolition of Greyfriars which is expected to start the same month. The closure of Greyfriars has been met with criticism from many readers of the *Chron*. The location of the new bus station has been questioned, as well as the ability of the site to cope with the number of buses using the site. But the leader of Northampton Borough Council, Councillor David Mackintosh, is confident it will work.

"I have been monitoring the project since it began and I am really pleased and looking forward to it opening for the public.

"When you look at it in contrast to Greyfriars, you realise what a massive improvement it is to the horrible existing building.

"It's long overdue and will be a proper welcome for people arriving in Northampton."

There will be an open day on Saturday, March 1 for people to look around the new building before buses depart for the first time.

Mr Mackintosh added he hoped North Gate would help revitalise the surrounding area and the Drapery while also benefiting market traders.

Northampton Borough Council has also defended its decision to charge commuters 20p to use the toilets at the new bus station. Mr Mackintosh said: "It is fairly standard to charge for toilet facilities.

"It will cover cleaning costs and upkeep and stop them becoming rundown."

Once open, entrances to the existing Greyfriars building will be boarded up to allow demolition to begin.

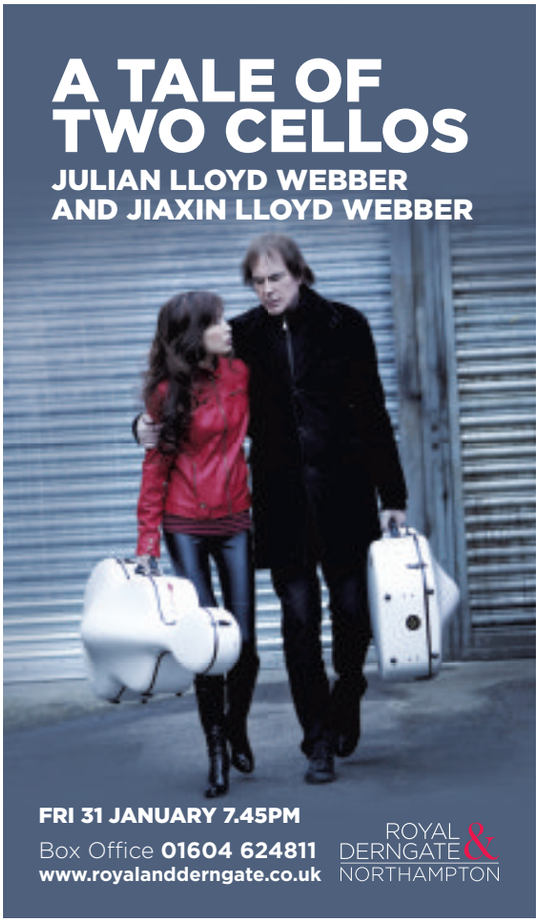
Council satisfied building 'is the right size'

The leader of Northampton Borough Council has urged sceptics of Northampton's new bus station to go and take a look around on its open day in March. Since the site was announced, letters criticising its location and size have been regularly printed in the Chron's letters pages with detractors saying people will be unable to get into the Grosvenor Centre without getting wet if is raining. Northampton Borough Council leader, David Mackintosh, said: "People have been saying it's much too small, but what you have to remember is that Greyfriars was a home to the entire bus fleet and it was the base for large offices above. The buses will not be staying overnight at the new bus station." Prior to building work taking place, council officials conducted tests at car parks at Sixfields which proved the site could cope with the number of buses arriving into and departing from North Gate.

Councillor Mackintosh added: "People are also comparing the size of the old Fishmarket to the new bus station.

"We have actually taken in a lot more of the land around the Fishmarket and it is much bigger than people realise.

"People have written to me a lot about it with their views, but I have gone back time and time again and I am certain that the site is fit for purpose."



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Eyesore jazz bar to be

A neglected former jazz bar which has stood empty in the centre of Northampton for more than five years could soon be converted into flats.

The Black Cat Jazz Bar in Sheep Street closed in 2008.

Since its closure, the landmark purple building has deteriorated, with claims the structure is now an eyesore.

In a bid to restore the building, developers have come forward to convert it into five flats.

Plans submitted to Northampton Borough Council by Wootton-based planning consultant, Barry Waine, said the development would greatly improve the Sheep Street area.

He said: "This building has been vacant for a number of years and is largely recognised as an eyesore.

"As such, it is considered that this proposal will enhance the character of the area and provide a visually improved focal point."

The building has been a variety of pubs and clubs over the years, including the Cookie Club, Macbeth's, Sinatra's and The Regent.

It was once well known as the 101 Club and the ground floor of the building was also a bookmakers for a time.

Latest plans for the building would see it painted white and the currently blocked-in windows would be re-opened.

Inside, the building would be converted into four one bedroom apartments and one two bedroom flat.

Mr Waine said: "In addition to the visual improvements, the public benefit would be through the use of the building for residential purposes, providing new homes in the town centre."

Since the Black Cat closed in 2008, the building has been advertised for sale but nobody has come forward to re-open it as a club.

As The Black Cat, the club was part of the Purplehaus group of venues, which at the time also included the Roadmender and the Soundhaus.

Officials from the Guildhall will decide in March if the flats plan should be given the go-ahead.

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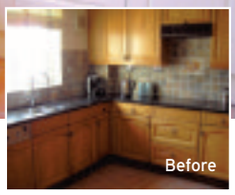

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Flats are planned for the former Black Cat jazz bar in Regent Square (above); formerly the 101 Club in the 1970s (far left)

Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service the Northampton, Kettering, Wellingborough & Corby areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118** and he'll be happy to help!

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Police station's front desk set to be closed

A town centre police station will effectively be closed to the general public after the relocation of its front desk.

The police's 'front desk' for public inquiries will move from Campbell Square next month

From February, the front desk at Campbell Square police station, in The Mounts, will be moved to The Guildhall, in the town centre.

Police officers and staff will still be based at the police station following the move, while there will still be a manned reception for pre-arranged appointments.

However, from Saturday, February 1, anyone wanting to report crimes, produce driving documents or report lost property will have to instead go to The Guildhall.

The new office will be open seven days a week, from 8am–8pm Monday to Saturday and 10am–4pm on Sundays.

Police said the change would mean the front desk was more accessible.

The move comes after a row between Northamptonshire Police and Northampton Borough Council, which owns the building, was finally settled three years ago.

The police claimed the building should have been given to the force in 1974, when the old Borough Police was merged with the county force.

They instructed lawyers to estimate the cost of fighting the case through the courts.

An agreement saw the police take a 999-year lease and pay a "peppercorn rent" for the building, which also houses Northampton Magistrates' Court.

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Investigators have been trying to identify the victim of the 'Blazing Car Murder' in 1930

Murder case victim remains a mystery

The identity of a Northampton murder victim who has remained anonymous for the past 84 years is still a mystery despite a probe on the BBC1's The One Show.

The case of the 'Blazing Car Murder', which took place in Hardingstone in 1930, has gone down in Northamptonshire folklore as one of the county's most gruesome crimes.

Alfred Rouse was convicted, and later hanged, at Bedford Jail in March 1931, for knocking his victim unconscious with a mallet and then burning him to death inside a Morris Minor car.

The victim has never been identified and is buried in an unmarked grave in Hardingstone cemetery.

Two years ago, the relatives of William Briggs contacted Northamptonshire Police after they found out their ancestor had left his family home in London to attend a doctor's appointment shortly before the murder and was never seen or heard of again.

With the help of Northamptonshire Police, the family contacted University of Leicester academic, Dr John Bond OBE.

He and Dr Lisa Smith negotiated with The Royal London Hospital museum to allow one of the remaining tissue samples to be examined.

University of Leicester worked with the Northumbria University Centre for Forensic Science to carry out DNA analysis on the samples to see if there was a match from the sample and the relatives. But in a report on The One Show this week, the results concluded it was not Mr Briggs.

Dr John Bond, from the University of Leicester, said: "It's been very interesting and rewarding working on such a famous, local murder case.

"It was quite a unique investigation to be involved in as the perpetrator had been identified long ago and brought to justice while the victim's identity remained unknown.

"It was a great example of how the scientific and criminological expertise at the University of Leicester and Northumbria University, working together with the police, could provide answers to this family after 83 years."

Detective Chief Superintendent Paul Phillips, from Northamptonshire Police, said: "Our work at Northamptonshire Police is victim focused so I was delighted to learn of new opportunities to establish the identity of the victim through the development of forensic science."

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Woman drowned in bid to save children

A legal manager at South Northamptonshire Council drowned after saving the lives of two children who got into trouble in the sea.

A beach in Goa

Chetna Nathasingh, from Northamptonshire, was on holiday in Goa with her husband, Kipling, and family friends when the tragedy happened, only hours before she was due to fly home.

An inquest on Tuesday heard how Mrs Nathasingh, aged 47, managed to keep the stricken girls, aged eight and 12, afloat until help arrived, but fell unconsciousness before lifeguards were able to pull her from the water.

In a statement read out in court, her husband described how she had refused to leave the girls in the sea when a jet ski and another vessel reached them, insisting she should be the last to be rescued.

By the time lifeguards got to her, Mrs Nathasingh was unconscious and was pronounced dead soon afterwards on the beach.

Mr Nathasingh said: "She was the perfect woman. She was my support, my soulmate and by best friend. The fact she gave her life for others was typical of her."

Bradford coroner, Dominic Bell, described the tragedy as "a very sad and moving story".

He recorded a verdict of accidental death.

Mrs Nathasingh, from Irthlingborough, worked as a legal services manager for South Northamptonshire Council at the time of her death.

A council spokesman said: "Chetna had served us and the people of the district for nearly 12 years and played a key role in representing the council in legal matters.

"Our thoughts and condolences are with her family at this difficult time."

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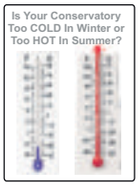

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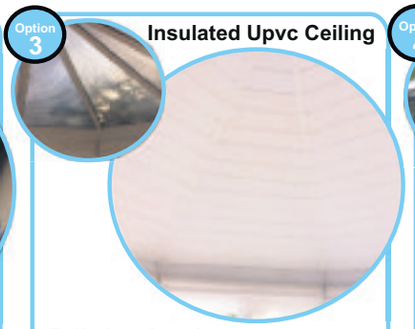

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Tributes paid to a rock 'n' roll legend

Tributes have been paid to a legendary rock 'n' roller who was renowned for his musical ability as well as for pranks involving a glass eye.

Freddie 'Fingers' Lee, a well-known musician who lived in Abington, in Northampton, for much of his life, died on Monday morning, aged 76.

Mr Lee's career started in the 1950s as a guitarist in a skiffle group. He then started to play piano for Screaming Lord Sutch, while the young Ritchie Blackmore later joined the band.

Mr Lee later joined Eden Kane's band, touring with Cliff Richard and Marty Wilde until, in the 1960s, he made his way to Hamburg, later joining the house band at the legendary Top Ten Club and The Star Club and rubbing shoulders with the likes of The Beatles.

Speaking of his time in Germany, he once said: "I played with Jerry Lee Lewis for a week, Chuck Berry, Little Richard, Fats Domino, The Crickets and Gene Vincent, I also met Sam Cooke there, who was a real gentleman."

His prolific writing career saw him pen 19 singles, eight albums, 12 compilations and had stars, such as Tom Jones, covering his songs.

He carved a television career in the late 1970s with the revival of the Jack Good TV show, *Oh Boy*, which provided him with a massive following in countries such as Italy, Spain, France and Germany.

He also starred alongside Bill Haley and Ray Campi, in the 1980 rockabilly documentary, *Blue Suede Shoes*.

Mr Lee, originally from from County Durham, died after a short illness and leaves behind five children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Daughter pays tribute to her father

Aside from his fame among fans for keeping the spirit of rock 'n' roll alive, Freddie Lee was a renowned prankster. He lost an eye at the age of three after an accident involving one of his father's stray darts.

According to his daughter, Debbie Lee, he used it to his advantage, dropping his glass eye in people's pints while they weren't looking. She said: "He was the most unconventional dad ever, but I wouldn't of had it any other way."

'He was the most unconventional dad ever, but he was great'

FAMILY TRIBUTE The daughter of Freddie 'Fingers' Lee, Debbie Lee, has paid tribute to her father

Northampton Mercury

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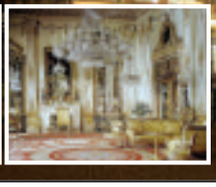

Saturday departures, 2 & 30 Aug and 27 Sept 2014

- Overnight stay at a **4 star outer London area hotel** with 3 course evening meal and full English breakfast
- Admission to Buckingham Palace on Sunday morning and transfer from hotel
- Free time in Windsor

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A Royal Weekend

Departing Saturday 13 September 2014

Join us for a Royal triple as we visit Buckingham Palace, The Queen's Gallery and The Royal Mews, all in a weekend. With all entry tickets included, plus 4 star hotel, 3 course dinner, full English breakfast and all coach travel and transfers, this is a blue-blooded tour that won't put you in the red!

- Overnight stay at a **4 star outer London area hotel with 3 course evening meal** and full English breakfast
- Admission ticket to The Queen's Gallery (face value £9.50) on Sunday
- Admission ticket to Buckingham Palace (face value £19) on Sunday
- Admission ticket to The Royal Mews (face value £8) on Sunday
- Coach transfers between hotel and central London on both days

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Clarence House
& The Royal Mews

Departing Saturday 16 August 2014

Join us for a for a close-up look at Charles and Camilla's London residence, Clarence House, and a tour of the vehicles, coaches, livery and horses of the Royal Mews. This great value Omega break includes coach travel, admission, 4 star hotel, full English breakfast, dinner and free time in London.

- Overnight stay at a **4 star outer London area hotel with 3-course dinner** & full English breakfast
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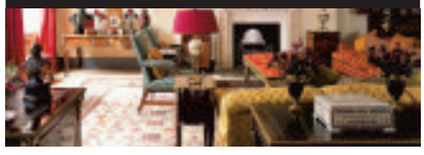
- Free time in London on Saturday

Organised by Omega Short Breaks Ltd, ABTA Y5914



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- Overnight stay at a **4 star** outer London area hotel **with 3-course dinner & full English breakfast**
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- Admission to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew with coach transfer

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Hampton Court Palace Flower Show

Departing Saturday 12 July 2014

The greatest flower show on Earth!

& Windsor

Greenery, gift or gadget, if it's garden-related it's at the Hampton Court Flower Show, the biggest in the world, so join Omega for a fragrant weekend of blooming good fun.

- Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star outer London hotel **with 3 course evening meal & full English breakfast**
- Return coach transfer from hotel to RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show
- Free time in Windsor

Organised by Omega Events Ltd, ABTA Y590X

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Florimania

at Hampton Court Palace & Windsor

Departing Saturday 29 March 2014

Celebrate the power of flowers with a 4 star weekend to see around 20,000 of them at the peerless Florimania exhibition at Hampton Court. With travel, 3 course evening meal, full English breakfast and a Thames cruise.

- Overnight stay at a **4 star** outer London area hotel with a **3 course evening meal and full English breakfast**
- Return boat trip on the Thames from Windsor to Boveney Lock
- Admission to Florimania and Hampton Court Palace and grounds

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Vikings:

Life and legend at the British Museum

2 days by **Coach**, from **£139.95pp**

Saturday departures, 29 March, 26 April, 24 May and 21 June 2014

Discover the Viking world in this major exhibition – the first at the British Museum for over 30 years. Swords and axes, coins and jewellery, hoards, amulets and religious images show how Vikings created an international network connecting cultures over four continents. At the centre of the exhibition will be the surviving timbers of a 37-metre-long Viking warship, the longest ever found.

- Overnight stay at a **4 star outer London hotel with 3 course dinner and full English breakfast**
- Timed late morning or early afternoon admission to Vikings: life and legend at the British Museum on Sunday
- Free time in London

Also available by Rail

Please call for more details...

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Chelsea Flower Show

& Windsor

Departing Friday 23 May 2014

Join the gardening glitterati at Chelsea, the show all the top professionals want to be known for, with over 550 exhibitors striving for the horticultural prize of prizes, a Chelsea Gold Medal. Be inspired by its patchwork of show gardens, small gardens and vibrant plant displays on this short break with 3 or 4 star hotel, dinner, full English breakfast and a visit to Windsor also included!

- Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star outer London hotel with 3 course dinner & full English breakfast
- Admission to the Chelsea Flower Show, with coach transfer
- A visit to Windsor

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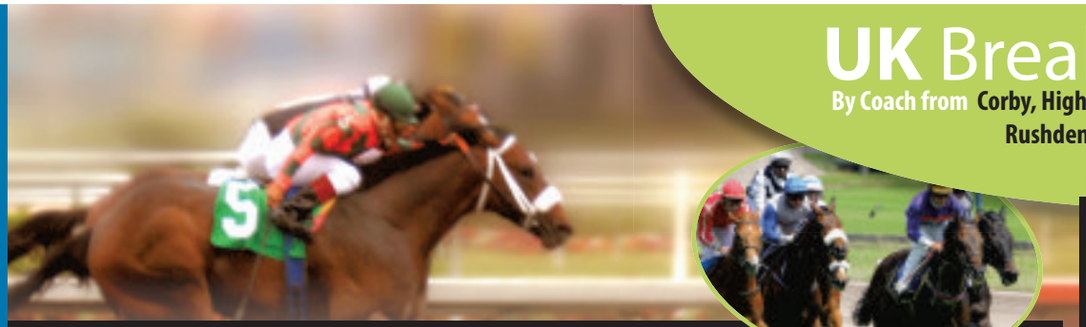

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Friday 14 March 2014

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- Admission to the Best Mate Enclosure. (An upgrade to the Tattersalls Enclosure is offered, subject to availability, at a supplement of £15 per person)
- A brunch-time full English breakfast with a glass of sparkling wine

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Day Excursion by **Coach**, from **£89.95pp**

GRAND NATIONAL & Manchester

Departing Friday 4 April 2014

If you only go to one race day your whole life, it's got to be Grand National Day! Not just one but seven races, and with transport, hotel, dinner, breakfast and free time to explore Manchester, this Omega break is a galloping good deal!

- Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star North West area hotel with dinner and full English breakfast
- Admission to the Aintree Steeplechase Enclosure on Grand National Day (An upgrade to the Tattersalls Enclosure is offered, subject to availability, at a supplement of £28 per person)
- A visit to Manchester City Centre

Organised by Omega Events Ltd, ABTA Y590X.

2 days by **Coach** from **£129.95pp**

Ideal Home Show 2014

at Earls Court, London

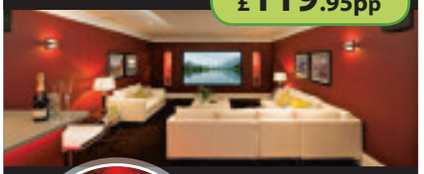
Departing Saturday 29 March 2014

Whether you have a substantial home project to complete or just want to add those finishing touches that make a house a home, this iconic Show should offer all the inspiration you need as it returns for its annual design and innovation extravaganza.

- Overnight stay at a **4 star outer London hotel** with dinner & full English breakfast
- Admission to the Ideal Home Show at Earls Court, London on Sunday
- Free time in London

Organised by Omega Events Ltd, ABTA Y590X

2 days by **Coach**, ONLY **£119.95pp**



Royal Ascot on Ladies' Day

Thursday 19 June 2014

Day Excursion by **Coach**, from **£89.95pp**

Hats on for fashion, it's Ladies' Day at Royal Ascot, a time-honoured tradition showcasing British millinery, with some racing too. Get ready to dress up for the Gold Cup in the Silver Ring and a fun day out among the thoroughbreds.

- Brunch-time full English breakfast with glass of sparkling wine
- Admission to the Silver Ring enclosure on Ladies' Day (Upgrade to Grandstand Admission ticket; supplement of £45pp)

Tall Ships

at Royal Greenwich

2 days by **Coach**, from ONLY **£109.95pp**

Departing Saturday 6 September 2014

Schooners, brigs, barques and sloops galore at the Royal Greenwich Regatta, offering mini cruises, deck visits and quayside fun in the biggest London Tall Ship event in 25 years. This bargain Omega break includes coach travel, 3 or 4 star hotel, 3 course dinner, and full English breakfast - it's nautical... but nice!

- Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star outer London area hotel
- **3 course evening meal and full English breakfast**
- Visit to Royal Greenwich for the Tall Ships Regatta 2014
- Free time in London

Classical Spectacular

at the Royal Albert Hall

Departing Saturday 22 March 2014

The UK's most popular classical music extravaganza returns to the Royal Albert Hall in March with a programme combining the very best in popular classical music with stunning visual accompaniment and dazzling special effects, bringing to life the scenes and moods evoked by each glorious piece.

- Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star outer London area hotel with early **3-course dinner & full English breakfast**
- A Choir ticket with a face value of £23.50 for the evening performance of Classical Spectacular at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 22 March 2014. (Upgrades available)
- Return coach transfer to the Royal Albert Hall
- Free time in London on Sunday

Organised by Omega Events Ltd, ABTA Y590X

Also available by rail Please call for details.

2 days by **Coach**, from **£149.95pp**

The Farnborough

International Airshow 2014

Departing Saturday 19 July 2014

- Overnight stay at a 3 or 4 star outer London area hotel **with 3 course evening meal and full English breakfast**
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- Free time in London

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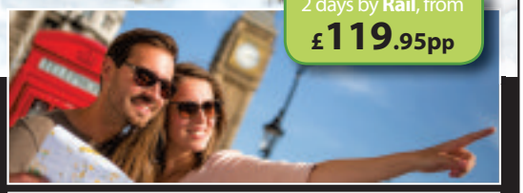
UK Breaks

By Coach from Corby, Higham Ferrers, Kettering, Northampton, Rushden & Wellingborough or By Rail from Kettering & Market Harborough



2 days by **Rail**, from **£119.95pp**

A Weekend Break to London *by Rail*

Saturday departures throughout 2014

- Overnight stay at a choice of 3 and 4 star London hotels with breakfast
- Free time in London for shopping and sightseeing
- Return standard class rail travel to London from Kettering or Market Harborough

Organised by Omega Short Breaks Ltd, ABTA Y5914

3 days by **Rail**, from **£159.95pp**

London Weekend *Rail Special*

Friday departures throughout 2014

London is known the world over for its spectacular sights; royal history and traditions; fabulous West End shows and fantastic shopping. Enjoy the stunning views from the London Eye, take in some culture at the Tate Modern, see the splendour and pageantry of Buckingham Palace or immerse yourself in the historical sights of St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London.

- 2 nights stay at a choice of 3 and 4 star London hotels with breakfast
- Free time in London for shopping and sightseeing
- Return standard class rail travel to London from Kettering or Market Harborough

Organised by Omega Short Breaks Ltd, ABTA Y5914

2 days by **Coach**, ONLY **£134.95pp**

Two Cruise Thames

& Greenwich & Windsor

Saturday departures, 2 & 30 Aug and 27 Sept 2014

The best views in London are from the river, so enjoy two different perspectives in two days – upstream from Windsor past Eton to Boveney Lock, then downriver from Westminster and the Houses of Parliament to Greenwich. One river, two cruises, 3 course dinner and 4 star hotel all add up to a ten out of ten weekend!

- Overnight stay at a **4 star outer London area hotel with 3 course evening meal & full English breakfast**
- Two cruises on the River Thames; from Windsor Promenade and from Westminster Pier
- Free time in Windsor and Greenwich

Organised by Omega Short Breaks Ltd, ABTA Y5914

3 days by **Coach**, ONLY **£199.95pp**

The Manchester Ship Canal

& Chester

Departing Friday 16 May 2014

Life in the slow lane, and the most tranquil way to travel ever invented. From the Wirral to Salford Quay, 6 hours and 35 miles through 120 years of history, with travel, 4 star hotel, evening meal, English breakfast, water, scenery and ducks included.

- **2 nights stay at the 4 star Thistle Haydock Hotel with 3 course evening meal and full English breakfast**
- Visits to Manchester & Chester
- Cruise on the Manchester Ship Canal

Organised by Omega Short Breaks Ltd, ABTA Y5914

5 days by **Coach**, ONLY **£319.95pp**

London Summer Days

& FREE excursion to Windsor

Departing Monday 18 August 2014

A FIVE day break in London in a **4 star central riverside hotel** with English breakfast, including travel, transfers and even a couple of excursions, all at a price to leave you in a summer daze!

- 4 nights stay in the **4 star Tower Guoman hotel** with full English breakfast
- Free excursion to Windsor
- Optional excursion to Richmond and Hampton Court Palace

Organised by Omega Short Breaks Ltd, ABTA Y5914

Narrowboats & Steam

Organised by Omega Short Breaks Ltd, ABTA Y5914

Departing Friday 17 September 2014

3 days by **Coach**, ONLY **£199.95pp**

Once, before motorway misery, everyone wore hats, coal went in barges and engines hissed steam. Take a break in low gear with a narrowboat, a Lakeland steam railway and a cruise on Windermere. With coach travel, 4 star hotel and half board. All aboard!

- 2 nights stay at the **4 Star** Mercure Blackburn Dunkenhalgh Hotel & Spa **with a 3 course dinner and full English breakfast**
- 20 minute ride on the Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway, 40 minute cruise on Windermere and 60 minute cruise by narrowboat on the Leeds Liverpool canal
- Free time in Skipton & Bowness

For more information or to book, please call: 01536 425985 quote NOR1
or visit: www.northamptonshire.reader.travel

OPENING TIMES:
MON-FRI 8.30-19.30
SAT 8.45-15.30
SUN 10.00 - 15.00

Single supplements apply. Subject to availability.

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THE RAILWAY TOURING COMPANY

Great Journeys - Fascinating Places

£5 per person discount on all prices when you quote: **TRP**

by Bob Green

Winter Cumbrian Mountain Express

The Settle & Carlisle line by steam

Join us for one of our series of steam journeys across the famous and dramatic Settle & Carlisle line and the Cumbrian Fells. Our vintage train travels north to Carnforth where we are joined by a historic locomotive, either No. 70013 Oliver Cromwell, No. 46115 Scots Guardsman or Black 5 No. 45305.

From here we steam up to Grayrigg, through the beautiful Lune Gorge and up to Shap. After crossing the Fells we head into Carlisle for a break in this ancient border city with its castle and cathedral. Then our train steams over the Settle & Carlisle Line, including an exciting climb up to Ais Gill summit and the Ribblehead Viaduct, with views of the Three Peaks along the way.

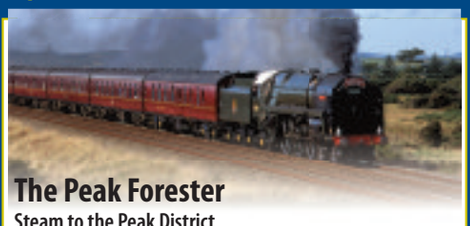
Approx timings

	Outward	Return
Northampton*	07.40	21.15
Rugby	08.25	20.38
Carlisle	12.40	14.30

Saturdays 1st Feb to 8th March, 2014
From £69pp

*Northampton passengers travel to and from Rugby by service train.

Price includes
- **Standard** £69pp/£177 family – a reserved seat at a table for four
- **First class** £119pp/£313 family – morning coffee & Danish pastry, afternoon tea with a selection of finger sandwiches, scones, jam and cream
- **Premier Dining** £189pp/£507 family – full English breakfast, light lunch and a four course dinner silver served at your seat



The Peak Forester

Steam to the Peak District

Join us on this special vintage train to Matlock in the beautiful Peak District of Derbyshire. Our train will be steam hauled throughout the day by Britannia class Pacific No. 70000 Britannia and the journey will include fast running on stretches of main line as well as highly scenic routes.

In the Peak District we travel up the picturesque valley of the River Derwent. At Matlock passengers will have the option of alighting or continuing on our train along the Heritage Railway 'Peak Rail' through Darley Dale to Rowsley.

Approx timings

	Outward	Return
Peterborough	11.25	19.40
Oakham	12.00	19.10
Matlock	13.55	17.30
Rowsley	14.25	17.00

Sunday 23rd March, 2014
From £89pp

Price includes
- **Standard** £89pp/£232 family – a reserved seat at a table for four
- **First class** £119pp/£310 family – morning coffee & Danish pastry, afternoon tea with a selection of finger sandwiches, scones, jam and cream

by Bob Green

Buxton Spa Express

The Peak District by steam

Journey to the beautiful Peak District in the company of historic steam locomotive Britannia class Pacific No. 70013 Oliver Cromwell. Our vintage train takes us across the magnificent Harringworth Viaduct, the longest masonry viaduct in Britain, through Wing Tunnel, on through England's smallest county Rutland, then along the Hope Valley Line into the picturesque Peak District.

There will be time to explore the spa town of Buxton, the highest market town in England and famous for its thermal springs, before heading home, saying goodbye to Oliver Cromwell at Stockport from where our vintage train is hauled by diesel power for the remainder of our journey.

Approx timings

	Outward	Return
Kettering	10.30	21.10
Buxton	14.15	17.00

Saturday 15th March, 2014
From £87pp

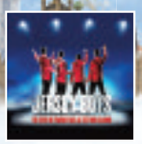
Price includes
- **Standard** £87pp/£225 family – a reserved seat at a table for four
- **First class** £134pp/£350 family – morning coffee & Danish pastry, afternoon tea with a selection of finger sandwiches, scones, jam and cream
- **Premier Dining** £205pp/£557 family – full English breakfast, light lunch and a four course dinner silver served at your seat

Please call us for more information **01553 661500** or visit **www.railwaytouring.co.uk**

Tables for two can be guaranteed in First/Premier for a supplement of £20pp (subject to availability). Buffet car available. Junior fares available. Organised by The Railway Touring Company. The Railway Touring Company's Standard Conditions of Booking and Travel apply – see website or brochure.

London & UK Breaks

By Rail from Kettering & Market Harborough or By Air from Luton



London Showstopper

3 days by **Rail**, from **£199.95pp**

Friday departures until September 2014

Saturday Night London Theatre

2 days by **Rail**, from **£149.95pp**

Weekly departures throughout 2014

The West End is home to the capital's best-loved and long-standing theatres. We offer an extensive selection of tickets for all the top shows and musicals. Choose from Billy Elliot, From Here To Eternity, Jersey Boys, Les Misérables, Mamma Mia!, Phantom of the Opera, Singin' in the Rain, Spamalot, The Lion King, We Will Rock You, Wicked, Woman in Black and more!

- 2 nights stay at a choice of 3 and 4 star London hotels with breakfast
- A ***top priced*** ticket for a Friday evening performance of the show of your choice from our fabulous selection
- Free time in London for shopping and sightseeing
- Return standard class rail travel to London from Kettering or Market Harborough

Organised by Omega Events Ltd, ABTA Y590X

- Overnight stay at a choice of 3 and 4 star London hotels with breakfast
- A ticket for a Saturday evening performance of the show of your choice from our fabulous selection
- Free time in London for shopping or sightseeing
- Return standard class rail travel to London from Kettering or Market Harborough

Organised by Omega Events Ltd, ABTA Y590X

Edinburgh Tattoo

by air from Luton airport

3 days by **AIR**, from **£329.95pp**

Departing Friday 8 August 2014
From Luton airport

As Scotland prepares to welcome the world as part of the exciting year of Homecoming, hundreds of Commonwealth participants are set to play a part in this year's Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Music, dance and precision display with the Massed Pipes and Drums, the Bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines, cultural troupes, singers and the poignant refrain of the Lone Piper against the stunning backdrop of Edinburgh Castle will entertain thousands of visitors

Price includes:
- Return flight from Luton airport to Glasgow†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 2 nights stay at a the 4 star Holiday Inn Glasgow Airport hotel with 3 course evening meal on Friday night and full Scottish breakfast
- Ticket to the Saturday evening performance of Edinburgh Tattoo
- Return coach transfers between hotel and Edinburgh

Organised by Omega Holidays, ABTA V4782, ATOL Protected 6081. Single supplement applies. Subject to availability. †We have included a reasonable budget for your flights. Should the cost of these fall below or rise above this amount we will amend the holiday cost to reflect these changes and therefore the price may increase or decrease accordingly. The final price will be confirmed at the time of booking.

For more information or to book, please call: 01536 425985 quote NOR1
or visit: www.northamptonshire.reader.travel

OPENING TIMES:
MON-FRI 8.30-19.30
SAT 8.45-15.30
SUN 10.00 - 15.00

Single supplements apply. Subject to availability.

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Diamond UK Breaks

The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, Rail & Steam

19 August 2014 4 days from £299

For 2014 the Edinburgh Military Tattoo will once again unite performers from four continents to host one of the world's greatest shows.

Price includes
- Private coach travel from your local area
- Three nights' bed and cooked breakfast
- Two three-course evening meals
- Return journey on the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway
- Visits to Edinburgh, Aberfoyle and Gretna Green
- Ticket to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo
- Circular cruise on the SS Sir Walter Scott

Summertime in the Lakes

20 June 2014 4 days from £219

Escape to England's largest National Park when it is in full bloom!

Price includes
- Private coach travel from your local area
- Three nights' stay with three course evening meal & cooked breakfast
- Tour of the Northern Lakes taking in Keswick, the Kirkstone Pass and Ullswater
- Tour of the Southern Lakes taking in Grasmere, Ambleside, Bowness on Windermere and Coniston
- Visit to Kendal

Bath, the Cotswolds & Oxford

9 May 2014 3 days from £149

Treat yourself to this quintessential English break.

Price includes
- Private coach travel from your local area
- Two nights' stay with three course evening meal & cooked breakfast
- Visits to Bath and Oxford
- Tour of the Cotswolds

Easter in Bath, the Cotswolds & Oxford

18 April 2014 4 days from £209

Make this Easter 'eggstra' special and join us in a picturesque corner of England.

Price includes
- Private coach travel from your local area
- Three nights' stay with three course evening meal & cooked breakfast
- Visits to Bath and Oxford
- Tour of the Cotswolds

Great Gardens of Sussex & Kent

22 May 2014 4 days from £279

Price includes
- Private coach travel from your local area
- Three nights' stay with three course evening meal & cooked breakfast
- Visit to Sissinghurst Castle Garden, Borde Hill Garden and Sheffield Park and Garden
- Visit to Tunbridge Wells
- Entrance to Great Dixter House & Gardens and Nymans

Norfolk Gardens & The Lavender Harvest

11 July 2014 3 days from £229

Price includes
- Private coach travel from your local area
- Two nights' stay with three course evening meal & cooked breakfast
- Visit to Cambridge & A tour of the Norfolk Lavender Fields and Distillery
- Entrance to the Bressingham Steam Centre and Gardens
- Entrance to Sandringham House and Gardens
- Cream Tea

Oban, Mull, Iona & Skye

13 April 2014 5 days from £339

Relax in the peaceful Inner Hebrides.

Price includes
- Private coach travel from your local area
- Overnight accommodation on the outward journey with dinner and cooked breakfast
- Three nights' stay with three course evening meal & cooked breakfast
- Tour of the Isles of Mull, Iona and Skye
- Visit to Tobermory

Paris & The Moulin Rouge

14 March 2014 4 days from £385

Price includes
- Private coach travel from your local area
- Return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais
- Three nights' bed and continental breakfast
- Sightseeing tour of Paris by coach
- An evening meal in a Parisian restaurant
- Entrance to the Moulin Rouge to see the show with half a bottle of champagne, wine or a non alcoholic drink
- Services of our Tour Manager

Great Spring Gardens of Cornwall & Spring at Eden

11 April 2014 4 days from £259

Cornwall is the perfect destination for a spring break.

Price includes
- Private coach travel from your local area
- Three nights' stay with three course evening meal & cooked breakfast
- Entrance to the Lost Gardens of Heligan, the Eden Project and Lanhydrock Gardens
- Visits to Truro and Mevagissey

Tour de France – Grand Départ Yorkshire 2014

4 July 2014 3 days from £169

See the world's greatest cycle race!

Price includes
- Private coach travel from your local area
- Two nights' stay with three course evening meals and cooked breakfasts
- Visit to Leeds
- See Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the Tour de France in three locations

To book or for more information call: **0844 409 6686** and quote: **NK** or visit **www.nk.diamondhols.co.uk**

Operated by Diamond Holidays of Market Harborough ABTA W0552. Prices are per person & based on two people sharing.
Single supplements may apply. Departure points are subject to availability and minimum numbers being achieved.

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Relaxing River Cruises

Great Rivers of Germany

26 June 2014
9 days from £899

The ultimate river cruise!

Price includes
- Executive return coach travel from a departure point near you
- Return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais
- Welcome drink, Captain's get together and Party Night
- En-suite cabin accommodation aboard the mps Amsterdam
- Full board during your cruise
- Entertainment every night of your cruise
- Visits to Koblenz, Rüdesheim, Frankfurt, Mainz, Mannheim, Boppard and Cochem

Floralia, Bruges & Ghent

8 April 2014
4 days from £329

An unforgettable flower experience.

Price includes
- Executive return coach travel from a departure point near you
- Return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais
- En-suite cabin accommodation aboard the mps Amsterdam
- Full board during your cruise*
- Entertainment every night of your cruise
- Visits to Bruges, Ghent, Brussels and Antwerp
- Entrance to Floralia at Chateau Bigard

*packed lunch for our visit to Floralia

Amsterdam & Bulbfields Spectacular Cruise

29 April 2014
5 days from £399

See the world-famous Keukenhof Garden and sparkling Amsterdam!

Price includes
- Executive return coach travel from a departure point near you
- Return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais
- En-suite cabin accommodation aboard the mps Amsterdam
- Full board during your cruise
- Entertainment every night of your cruise
- Visits to Volendam and Kampen
- Full day in Amsterdam
- Entrance to Keukenhof Gardens

Scenic Rhine & Switzerland Cruise

31 May & 20 July 2014
10 days from £999

A never-ending mosaic of landscapes.

Price includes
- Executive return coach travel from a departure point near you
- Return ferry crossing from Dover to Calais
- En-suite cabin accommodation aboard the mps Amsterdam
- Full board during your cruise
- Visits to Andernach, Koblenz, Rüdesheim, Speyer, Strasbourg, Breisach and Basel
- Excursion to Lucerne
- Overnight hotel accommodation with dinner and breakfast in France

To book or for more information call: **0844 409 6685** and quote: **NK** or visit **www.rivercruiseline.co.uk**

Operated by The River Cruise Line of Market Harborough ABTA W0552. Prices are per person & based on two people sharing.
Single supplements may apply. Departure points are subject to availability and minimum numbers being achieved.

Inspirational Rail Holidays

The Dordogne & the Truffle Train

18 May, 16 June & 1 September 2014
6 days from £695

Indulge your senses in the beautiful Dordogne region of France.

Price includes
- Return Eurostar from London to Paris
- Return TGV from Paris to Brive
- Five nights' half board accommodation
- Visit to Rocamadour, Sarlat, Souillac & Martel
- Visit and entrance to the Caves of Gouffre de Padirac
- Distillery Tour and tasting in Souillac
- A cruise on the Dordogne in a traditional Gabare
- A journey on le Truffadou train (The Truffle Train)

Marrakech Express

March - October 2014
10 days from £1049

A Moroccan adventure!

Price includes
- Eurostar from London St Pancras International to Paris
- High speed trains to Barcelona and Madrid
- Return flight from Marrakech to London Gatwick
- Nine nights' half board accommodation
- Guided tour of Barcelona
- Guided coach tour of Madrid
- Guided tour of Rabat
- Full day excursion to Casablanca
- Guided walking tour of Marrakech
- Services of a Tour Manager

Great Little Trains of the Rhine Valley

April - September 2014
6 days from £549

Explore the legendary Rhine Valley by train, boat and horse-drawn carriage.

Price includes
- Return Eurostar from London to Brussels
- Return rail journeys from Brussels to the Rhine Valley
- Five nights' half board accommodation in Remagen
- Journeys to the Ahr Valley, Cologne, Bonn and Rüdesheim
- Trip on the Vulkan Express
- Services of a Tour Manager

St Tropez, Nice & Monte Carlo

May - November 2014
8 days from £649

Staying in a pretty resort on the Mediterranean, you can experience the glitz and glamour of the Côte d'Azur, along with its stunning natural beauty.

Price includes
- Return Eurostar from London St Pancras International to Lille
- Seven nights half board accommodation in St Raphaël, France
- Visits to St Tropez, Nice & Monte Carlo
- Services of a Tour Manager

To book or for more information call: **0844 409 6684** and quote: **NK** or visit **www.diamondrailholidays.co.uk**

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Single supplements may apply. Departure points are subject to availability and minimum numbers being achieved.

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Holidays by Air & Coach Collection 2014

*SAVE £100 PER COUPLE ON AIR HOLIDAYS!

Best of Italy

Staying on the Mediterranean Riviera, Montecatine Terme, Rome and Sorrento with included excursions to Rome, Florence, Pisa, Pompeii and Orvieto.

8 days, 17 May, 6 September & 20 September 2014

Flying from East Midlands, Stansted & Luton airports

Extend your stay for an extra 7 nights from £369pp

Enjoy unbeatable value in the charm of Lake Como. Discover a wealth of beauty from the snow capped mountain peaks to enchanting waterside towns, beautiful promenades and exclusive resorts.

Highlights of Andalucia

Staying in Torremolinos, Seville & Granada with included excursions to the Alhambra Palace in Granada, Gibraltar, Ronda and Cordoba.

8 days, May, September & October 2014

Flying from East Midlands, Stansted & Luton airports

Classical Italy

Staying in Rome, Lido Di Jesolo and the Tuscan coast/Montecatini Terme with included excursions to Rome, Florence, Venice, Orvieto, Pisa and Siena.

8 days, 14 June & 13 September 2014

Flying from East Midlands, Stansted & Luton airports

Extend your stay in September for an extra 7 nights from £389pp

Lake Como All Inclusive

Staying at the Britannia Excelsior in Cadenabbia

8 days, Regular departures throughout 2014

Your All-Inclusive Holiday Includes:

- Return flights from East Midlands, Stansted & Luton airports to Milan, luggage and hotel transfers
- 7 nights all-inclusive on the lakeside at the Britannia Excelsior Hotel in Cadenabbia with hot and cold buffet breakfast, lunch and dinner
- FREE BAR from 8.30am – midnight

Optional sightseeing to Lake Maggiore, Milan, Como, Lake Lugano and St. Moritz & Bernina Express Railway (available at a supplement)

Stay for 14 nights All Inclusive from £969pp

Paris Weekend Breaks

Staying in the Greater Paris area with optional excursions; Versaillies, Paris by Night, Paris City Tour and Illuminations available at a supplement.

4 days, 18 April, 23 May, 25 July, 22 August, 26 September, 24 October & 5 December 2014

By Coach from local departure points

To book call... 01604 92 10 95 quote 057 or visit... www.mistralholidays.co.uk/057

Operated by Mistral Holidays ABTA V0669 ATOL 6900. Subject to availabilty and full terms & conditions apply. *Offer applies to new air holiday bookings only (excluding city breaks and all-inclusive Spain). Price shown includes £50 per person discount.

Andalucia's Eastern Coast, Granada & Almeria

Flying direct from Luton

Departs February-June, September-November 2014

On this holiday, not only will you visit Spain's greatest palace, the Alhambra in Granada, but also the city of Almeria and the Cabo de Gata Natural Park with its salt pans and dunes. Your base is the coastal city of Almunecar. The wonderful sub-tropical climate will help you enjoy the city's rich artistic and cultural heritage. In and around Almunecar the sierras plunge spectacularly into the sea and you will find no less than 25 beaches and coves within its boundary.

Price includes

- Direct flights from Luton
- 7 nights 4* HB accommodation on the coast in Taramay, Almunecar
- Included excursion to Granada and the Alhambra
- Included excursion to Almeria and Cabo de Gata
- Option to extend your holiday
- Services of a tour representative

Walking Holidays Collection

Flying direct from Luton

Departures from February-November 2014

Our collection is designed to give you as much flexibility as possible - walk a lot, walk a little - the choice is yours. So you will still have time to visit cities and places of interest in some of Europe's most picturesque countryside and beauty spots. We feature a host of popular destinations in Catalonia, Andalucia and the Basque Country in mainland Spain; the Balearic and Canary Islands; the High Pyrenees; Elba, Tuscany, Cinque Terre, Lake Maggiore and the Italian Riviera in Italy; South West France, the Julian Alps in Slovenia, the Harz mountains and Lower Bavaria in Germany as well as the Algarve in Portugal, Crete, Cyprus and Morocco.

Price includes

- Direct flights from Luton
- 7 nights hotel accommodation – mostly half board
- 3 fully guided walks
- Options to extend by 7 nights on many holidays
- Services of a local representative

Lanzarote & Fuerteventura

from Luton

Departs Feb 23, Mar 9 & Nov 9 2014

Price includes

- Direct flights from Luton
- 7 nights HB accommodation in Playa Blanca on Lanzarote
- Tour of Manrique's Lanzarote
- Tour of the Volcanes Natural Park
- Excursion to Fuerteventura
- Option to extend your holiday
- Services of a tour representative

Carcassonne, Cathar Country & Catalonia from Luton

Selected departures Mar to Jun, Sept & Oct 2014

Price includes

- Direct flights from Luton
- 7 nights HB hotel accommodation (4 in France & 3 in Spain)
- Full day excursion to Carcassonne and Rennes-le-Chateau
- Free time in Figueras and Barcelona
- Services of a tour representative

NO SINGLE SUPPLEMENT ON SELECTED DATES – LIMITED AVAILABILITY

Bordighera – the Italian Riviera & Monte Carlo from Luton

Departs Mar 31, May 5 & 12, Sep 29 & Oct 6 2014

Price includes

- Direct flights from Luton
- 7 nights HB in Bordighera
- Excursions to Taggia and San Remo; Monte Carlo and Dolceacqua
- Walking tour of Bordighera
- A free 1 hour session in the hotel's wellness centre
- Services of a representative

For more information or to book, please call: 0116 279 3929 quote NTEL Further details are available at www.preferredts.com/ntel

Operated by Preferred Travel Services, ABTA W3692, ATOL Protected 5537. Prices are per person based on two sharing and are subject to availability. Single supplements may apply.

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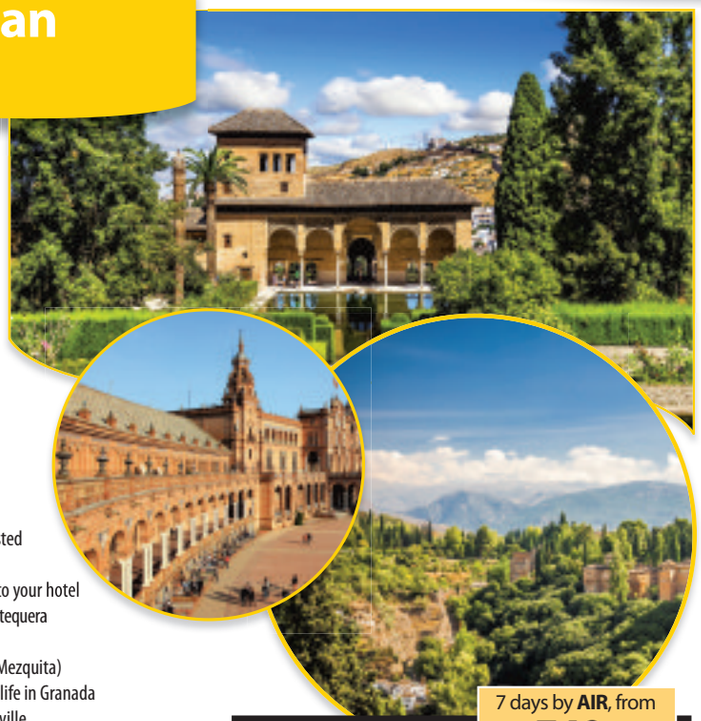
European Holidays by Air & Rail

Andalucian
Capitals



Thursday departures, 12 June and 4 & 25 September 2014
From East Midlands, Luton or Stansted airports

Just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Morocco, Andalucia is simply one of the most beautiful and unspoilt corners of Europe. Its stunning cities are steeped in history with a culture influenced by the Moors and the Romans which is enriched by the greatly contrasting surrounding landscape.

Price includes:
- Return flight from East Midlands, Luton or Stansted airports to Malaga†
- Airport taxes & return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 6 nights stay at the **4 star** Hotel Antequera Golf, Antequera with dinner & breakfast
- A guided tour of the Great Mosque of Cordoba (Mezquita)
- Admission to the Alhambra Palace & the Generalife in Granada
- Includes 3 excursions; to Cordoba, Granada & Seville

Includes Escorted Excursions

7 days by **AIR**, from **£749pp**

Malta & Gozo
The idyllic islands

Tuesday departures, 6, 20 & 27 May and 7 October 2014
From Luton airport

8 days by **AIR**, from **£739pp**

Set in the heart of the Mediterranean, the idyllic island of Malta has been described as one big open-air museum, with so much of its past being visible today including ancient temples and palaces, the world's oldest surviving free standing stone structures and red telephone boxes! A cultural gem bursting with a rich, diverse heritage, stunning scenery, great cuisine and an endearing charm.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Luton airport to Malta†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Park Hotel, Sliema with dinner & breakfast
- An included excursion to Gozo
- A visit to Valletta including admission to The Malta Experience
- Includes a full day excursion; to The Three Cities; Cospicua, Senglea & Vittoriosa

Includes Escorted Excursions

Amsterdam
& the Bulbfields

Friday departures, 4, 18, & 25 April and 2 & 9 May 2014
From Luton or Stansted airports

Enjoy a delightful spring weekend break with a distinctive Dutch flavour visiting the magnificent, world-famous bulb fields at Keukenhof and, also, the Netherlands' capital city Amsterdam, the town of Delft, famous for its blue ceramics for more than 400 years, the seat of the Dutch government The Hague and the quaint fishing village of Volendam. Keukenhof is one of the largest and most famous spring gardens in the world and each year the flower festival takes on a different theme which in 2014 will be highlighting traditional and modern symbols of 'Holland'.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Luton or Stansted airports to Amsterdam Airport Schiphol†
- All airport taxes
- 2 nights stay at the 4 star Van der Valk Hotel Almere with dinner & breakfast
- Entrance to Keukenhof
- Visits to Amsterdam, The Hague, Delft and Volendam

Includes Halfboard at a 4 Star Hotel

3 days by **AIR**, from **£449pp**

Cyprus
in the Winter

Departing Wednesday 26 February 2014
From Luton airport

Experience a fascinating country that effortlessly combines modern European culture with ancient traditions and rich historical past. Discover alluring beaches, bustling resorts, fragrant mountain peaks and ancient ruins on this superb value winter sunshine holiday!

Price Includes:
- Return flight from Luton airport to Paphos†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Athena Beach Hotel, Paphos with dinner & breakfast.
- Entrance to the Mosaics in Paphos
- Admission to the Cathedral of St. John and the Byzantine Museum in Nicosia
- Full day excursion to the Troodos Mountains

Includes Escorted Excursions

8 days by **AIR**, from **£659pp**

Lake Garda
Autumn Special in Malcesine

Departing Sunday 12 October 2014
From Manchester airport

Lake Garda, a majestic Alpine fjord rich with olive and lemon groves, palms, cypresses, oleanders and orange trees. This one-time-only Omega deal includes flights, transfers, 3 star hotel at the water's edge, dinner and breakfast, and there are optional excursions too.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Manchester airport to Bergamo†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at 3 star Hotel Malcesine with breakfast and evening meal
- Optional boat tour of Lake Garda and excursions to Verona, the Dolomites and Venice

8 days from **ONLY £469pp**

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By AIR from East Midlands, Luton and Stansted airports

European Holidays by Air

Sorrento, Capri
& the Bay of Naples

Departing June - September 2014
From East Midlands airport

This is a dream of a break among the cliffs, lemon-orchards, olive-groves and turquoise waters of Italy's favourite bay, where Romans romped, Spartacus skirmished, emperors idled and where 79AD was a very bad grape year. Includes flights, 7 nights 4 star accommodation with dinner & breakfast, and all-day excursions to Pompeii & Vesuvius, Amalfi and Capri.

Price includes:
- Return flight from East Midlands airport to Naples†
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Hotel Delle Palme, Sant'Agata sui due Golfi with **3 course evening meal and breakfast**
- Three full-day escorted excursions; to the Island of Capri, to Pompeii & Vesuvius, and the Amalfi Drive

Includes Escorted Excursions

8 days by **AIR**, from **£949pp**

Diano Marina
& the Riviera of Flowers

Saturday departures, 7 June & 6 September 2014
From Luton or Stansted airports

Imagine a backdrop of hills clad in olive groves and pine, lemon and orange trees leading down to picturesque coves, splendid beaches, and the hinterland blazing with the exotic flowering blooms from which the Italian Riviera of Flowers gets its name. . .savour delightful Diano Marina on this great-value holiday with a quality hotel and two fully-escorted excursions.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Luton or Stansted airports to Nice†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Arc en Ciel, Diano Marina with dinner & breakfast An upgrade to the **4 star Hotel Metropol, Diano Marina** is offered, subject to availability, at a supplement.
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to Santa Margherita & Portofino and Monaco & Monte Carlo

Includes Escorted Excursions

8 days by **AIR**, from **£809pp**

Madrid, Toledo
and Segovia

Departing Thursday 15 May 2014
From Luton airport

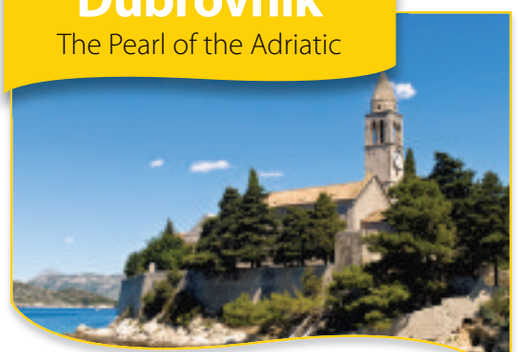
6 days by **AIR**, from **£679pp**

Discover a warm welcome in magnificent Madrid with its wonderful collections of art, stunning architecture and impeccable parks and gardens. Add to the mix a feast of fine eateries and you have a holiday to remember!

Price includes:
- Return flight from Luton airport to Madrid†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 5 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Ganivet, Madrid,with breakfast
- Three buffet dinners
- Included panoramic coach tour and a guided walking tour of the historical centre of Madrid
- Included excursions to Toledo and Segovia
- Free time in Madrid

Includes Escorted Excursions

Dubrovnik
The Pearl of the Adriatic



Sunday departures, 4, 11 & 18 May and 12 October 2014
From East Midlands or Stansted airports

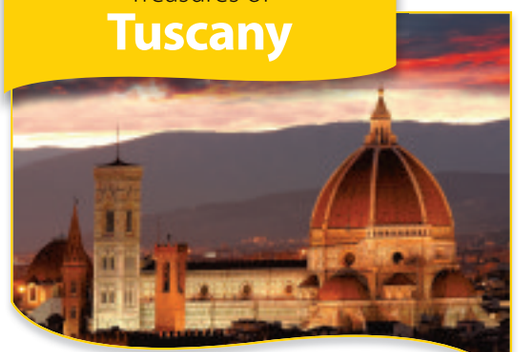
The magnificent old walled city of Dubrovnik is steeped in historical, architectural and artistic treasures boasting spectacular Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque churches, monasteries, palaces and fountains. Set against a backdrop of wooded hillsides and with stunning views of the Dalmatian coastline, it is easy to see why George Bernard Shaw thought idyllic Dubrovnik was quite simply "Paradise on Earth".

Price includes:
- Return flight from East Midlands or Stansted airports to Dubrovnik†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 4 star Grand Hotel Park, Dubrovnik with dinner & breakfast
- Includes 2 full day excursions; to the island of Korčula and a cruise around the Elaphite Islands

Includes Escorted Excursions

8 days by **AIR**, from **£729pp**

Treasures of Tuscany



Saturday departures, 31 May, 14 & 21 June and 20 September 2014
From Luton or Stansted airports

Beautiful Tuscany attracts visitors for many reasons; for some it is the fine art and amazing culture, for others the charming Medieval towns and Renaissance splendours, fashionable coastal towns and quiet green hills.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Luton or Stansted airports airport to Pisa†
- Airport taxes & return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the 3 star Hotel Aggravi, Chianciano Terme with dinner & breakfast. An upgrade to the 4 star Grand Hotel Ambasciatori, Chianciano Terme is offered, subject to availability, at a supplement
- Includes 3 full day excursions; to Florence, Rome, Siena & San Gimignano and a half day excursion to Montepulciano & Pienza

Includes Escorted Excursions

8 days by **AIR**, from **£699pp**

Barcelona
& Catalonia

8 days by **AIR**, from **£679pp**

Departing Wednesday 14 May 2014
From Stansted airport

From Gothic to Gaudi, the ramblas to the champlas, in Barcelona there is artistry on every street corner. We'll take you to Montserrat and the Black Madonna, Figueres and the Dalí Museum, La Garrotxa with its volcanic gorges, and eleventh century Besalú with its Jewish quarter. All this, and you've still got time to stroll on the beach at Calella on the Costa Brava, visit a wine cava, and the markets at La Boqueria, or just relax in 4-star style.

Price includes:
- Return flight from Stansted airport to Barcelona†
- Airport taxes and return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay in **4 star Hotel Les Palmeres,** Calella with dinner & breakfast
- Includes 3 full day excursions; to Barcelona including guided walking tour of the old town, Montserrat and Figueres with admission to the Dali Museum

Includes Escorted Excursions

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By AIR from East Midlands, Luton and Stansted airports

European Holidays by Air and Excursion by Air

A Three Countries Tour
France, Spain & Andorra

Departing Wednesday 1 October 2014
From East Midlands airport

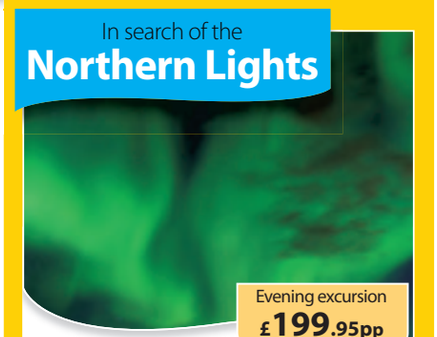
Not your average Costa Brava beach holiday, this is a unique tour of the Catalan region of the Pyrenees taking in medieval French walled towns, a microstate high in the mountains, possibly the most peculiar museum in the world, and a Mediterranean street café Mecca with a Gothic old quarter, a Gaudi odd quarter and, surprisingly for a capital city, some of the world's best beaches too.

Price Includes:
- Return flight from East Midlands airport to Barcelona†
- Airport taxes and return transfer to the hotel
- Three nights stay at the **4 star Aqua Hotel Onabrava Santa** Susanna with dinner and breakfast
- Three nights stay at the **4 star Art Hotel Andorra La Vella** with dinner and breakfast
- Overnight stay at the 3 star Hotel Exe Viladomat Barcelona with breakfast
- Guided tour of Barcelona including Montjuïc, Parc Güell and the Gothic quarter
- Visits to Villefranche de Conflent, Mont-Louis, Andorra Old Parliament, Meritxell Sanctuary, Lake Engolasters, La Seu d'Urgell, a water mill and Montserrat
- Admission to the Dalí Theatre-Museum and Parc Güell

Includes Escorted Excursions

8 days by **AIR**, from **£729pp**

In search of the Northern Lights



Evening excursion **£199.95pp**

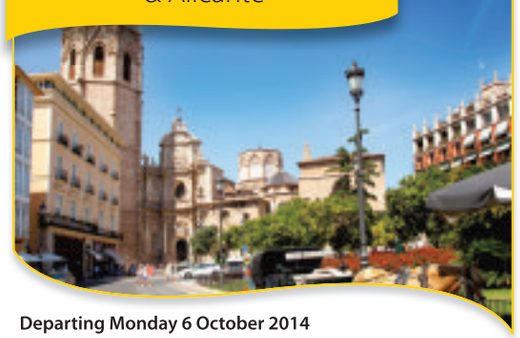
Wednesday 26 February 2014
From Luton airport

Enjoy a wonderful journey through a star-studded sky in the company of our expert astronomers in a quest to see one of the most spectacular natural phenomena known to man. Our most popular charter flight is an ideal gift or simply a well deserved treat for yourself.

- Pre-flight illustrated presentation by our guest astronomers
- Flight in search of the Northern Lights of approximately three hours departing from Luton airport
- Services of our astronomers on board
- Airport taxes

Important note: the Northern Lights are natural phenomena which cannot be guaranteed to occur during our flight, although they have been visible on many previous outings. Our guest astronomer advises at least an 80% chance of a sighting.

Valencia
& Alicante



Departing Monday 6 October 2014
From East Midlands or Luton airports

For a late-season break you really can't go wrong with this much-loved favourite, Spain's 'Levante', an area rich with warm sunlight and turquoise ocean, boulevards of palm trees and thousand year-old Moorish architecture. It's a region famous for almonds and oranges, for rice dishes and wine, soaring sierras and sleepy villages full of whitewashed little houses festooned with flower pots. We'll take you on guided tours of the best the Levante has to offer, from Guadalest and Alicante to Valencia and a mountain expedition to find the world's greatest paella.

Price includes:
- Return flight from East Midlands or Luton airports to Alicante†
- Return transfer from the airport to your hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Hotel Albir Playa**
- Half board (dinner and breakfast)
- Full day excursions to Guadalest, Valencia, Alicante and Marina Alta

Includes Escorted Excursions

8 days by **AIR**, from **£759pp**

Maderia
Winter Sun

Departing Monday 31 March 2014
From East Midlands airport

Fancy somewhere a bit unusual this winter? Think Madeira. It's a top cruise destination, it's got exotic flora and fauna, mountains, forest, great food and nightlife too, but none of the party crowds. Plus it's got year-round Goldilocks weather, not too hot and not too cold, but just right!

Price includes:
- Return flight from East Midlands airport to Funchal, Madeira†
- Airport taxes and return transfer to the hotel
- 7 nights stay at the **4 star Hotel Raga**, Funchal with full board including drinks with meals.
- Tour of Funchal
- Full day tour of Western Madeira including lunch
- Visit to Quintas do Bom Sucesso botanical gardens

Includes FULL Board & drinks with meals

Please call for more **details...**

8 days by **AIR**, from **£799pp**

Imperial Cities

8 days by **AIR**, from **£959pp**

Departing Thursday 7 August 2014
From Stansted airport

Price includes:
- Return flights from Stansted airport†; outbound to Prague and return from Budapest
- Return airport-hotel-airport transfer
- Coach transfer from Prague to Vienna, and transfer by train from Vienna to Budapest
- 3 nights' stay at the 4 star Hotel Century Old Town, Prague with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Courtyard by Marriott, Vienna Messe with breakfast
- 2 nights' stay at the 4 star Lion's Garden Hotel, Budapest with breakfast
- 3 lunches and 4 dinners, including a Folklore Show with dinner in Prague and a Dinner Cruise on the River Danube in Budapest
- All excursions as detailed in the itinerary
- Admission to Prague Castle (including St Vitus' Cathedral and St George's Basilica); the Hofburg Imperial Palace and Schönbrunn Palace (Vienna); Matthias Church, the Fisherman's Bastion and The Statue Park (Budapest)

Includes Escorted Excursions

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Burger ban near schools?

Public health bosses are talking with councils about new controls to stop new takeaway restaurants opening near schools.

Seventeen per cent of Year Six pupils in the county are obese and health officials are looking at what powers councils have to enforce good eating habits.

Among the measures being considered are allowing council planning committees to deny applications to open fast food shops within walking distance of schools.

Robin Brown, chair of the county's Health and Wellbeing Board, said he backed the principle. He said: "I know other local authorities have the same policies so it is something that is quite possible.

"Akeem Ali, our director of public health, is talking to the borough and district council chief executives about what they can do to support these ideas.

"Local authorities have quite a lot of influence on health and, for example, can determine how many kebab shops there can be in a certain area.

"I don't think the overall idea is to stop children walking to shops in their lunch breaks, it's more about educating children about what is and isn't healthy."

CE LIBRARY PICTURE POSED BY MODELS

A report concluded 17 per cent od Year Six pupils were obese

Planners at the London Borough of Waltham Forest decided not to give planning permission to new hot food takeaways if they were 400 metres or less from a school or other facility aimed at children.

The policy aimed to limit the chances young people have to eat 'fast food'.

A small reduction in child obesity was noted, although a link to the policy was never proved.

The report by consultants paid by Northamptonshire County Council also recommended:
– Ensuring publicly-funded venues provide healthier options
– Encouraging venues frequented by children and supported by public money to resist sponsorship or product placement from companies associated with foods high in fat, sugar or salt.

Consultants also found that:
– Almost one in 10 children in Northamptonshire was obese when they started school, and nearly a quarter were obese – when weight harms their health – or overweight.
– By age 11, more than one in six children was obese and a third were overweight or obese.

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Open doors for burglars

Nineteen of the 61 burglaries in Northampton since the beginning of 2014 were at homes where thieves got in through an unlocked back door.

Now people in Northampton are being reminded to make sure they keep their homes secure after the spate of "opportunistic" burglaries at properties in the town where doors or windows were left unlocked.

Detective Sergeant Carrie Powers said: "Unfortunately, too many people still leave doors unlocked.

"Often they simply forget to check or think someone else in the house must have done it.

"In the first 13 days of January, more than a third of burglaries in the Northampton area have happened because the house was left insecure. In some of these, the householder was in the property at the time.

"Burglars are opportunistic and if they come across a door or even a window that's been left unlocked, it's an easy target for them.

"Yesterday, central sector officers were checking doors while out on patrol and found 15 front doors unlocked."

OPEN INVITATION: Some break ins have taken place because opportunist thieves found unlocked doors

Det Sgt Powers said properties where the front door opens straight onto the street or back onto an alleyway could be particularly vulnerable.

She said: "I would urge everyone, wherever they live, to please make sure they've locked up properly, both when they're in the house and when they go out.

"Even if someone is at home, if a front door is open, it can take just seconds for a burglar to steal a handbag or set of keys left in the hall," she added.

■ The 19 burglaries happened in Cedar Road, Briton Terrace, Washington Street, Balmoral Road, Countess Road, Gladstone Road, Pembroke Road, St James Park Road, Greenwood Road, Grafton Street, Ethel Street, Whitworth Road, Cowley Close and Woodford Street.

For more crime prevention advice, visit www.northants.police.uk/crimeprevention.

Northampton Mercury

ReaderTravel

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Eastbourne

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Motors

ROAD TEST – NISSAN QASHQAI 1.2 DIG-T TEKNA 2WD

Tough looks with stylish comfort

Question: What connects Paddington in London, Cranfield in Buckinghamshire, and Sunderland in the north-east of England?

The answer is one of the biggest success stories in modern motoring, in the shape of the Nissan Qashqai, a car that almost by itself started a new trend for cars that look tall and tough, but are as easy to park as a hatchback and about as economical to run.

Since the first one rolled off the production line in Sunderland in 2007, more than 1.7m have been built. Now the team at Nissan's European design centre in Paddington have done what all the research was telling them. Existing Qashqai owners loved their cars, but wouldn't mind a bit more style, a dash of extra technology and, please, keep a tight rein on running costs.

So the new Qashqai looks like an entirely logical development of the first car; a little lower, wider and longer than before, and a touch lighter too, to the benefit of interior room, luggage space and economy.

Allied to upgraded petrol and diesel engines, this sharper-suited Qashqai now slips below the road tax barrier in its most frugal version, and all the rest use usefully less fuel than before.

For the way it feels on the road we have the 1,000-strong team at Nissan's technical centre in Cranfield to thank.

And what a fine job they've done.

FACTFILE

PRICE: £23,145

DRIVETRAIN: 1.2 litre 115hp petrol engine, 6-speed gearbox

PERFORMANCE: Top speed 115mph, 0-62mph 10.9 seconds

ECONOMY: Euro average 50.4mpg CO2 129g/km road tax £0 first year, then £105

SIZE: 4379mm by 1800mm wide

INSURANCE: Group 14

WARRANTY: Three years or 60,000 miles

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2007 £3,300 ono

Ford

Ford ka 1.3, 03 reg , 77,000 miles, mot August, taxed end of June, family owned, service history and all receipts. £895 07854732429

Ford KA Style 55 reg, slate grey, 67,000 miles, CD player, air con, mot end of October, good condition. Tel 07854 732429/ 01536 722451

2005 £1295

Mercedes

MERCEDES A150 CLASSIC SE 07, 1.5, 64,500 miles, red, petrol, 2007, FSH, 7 months MOT 2 owners. £3,995 **Tel:** 07584 483570

2007 £3,995

Ford

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5 door hatchback, petrol, green, 65,000 miles, air con, alarm, central locking, electronic windows, engine immobiliser, power assisted steering, stereo system, 12 months MOT. Good clean car. Good runner. (Image for ad only) **Tel: 07794 801002 or 01604 315105**

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05, 1.4, 5 door hatchback, 60,000 miles, black, diesel, 2005, Full 12 months MOT. Full 12 Months Tax. Full Service History. Metallic Black With Black Leather Interior. CD Player. Air Conditioning. Heated Front & Rear Wind screen... £2,850 ono **Tel: 01604 831963**

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2008 £7150 ono

Mercedes

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Department for Transport

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

THE SECRETARY OF STATE hereby gives notice of the proposal to make an Order under section 247 of the above Act to authorise the stopping up of two sections of highway adjoining Duston Community Centre at Duston, in the Borough of Northampton.

IF THE ORDER IS MADE, the stopping up will be authorised only in order to enable development as permitted by Northampton Borough Council under reference N/2012/828.

COPIES OF THE DRAFT ORDER AND RELEVANT PLAN will be available for inspection during normal opening hours at Duston Library, Duston Community Centre, Pendle Road, Duston, Northampton, NN5 6DT in the 28 days commencing on 23 January 2014, and may be obtained, free of charge, from the Secretary of State (quoting NATTRAN/EM/S247/1219) at the address stated below.

ANY PERSON MAY OBJECT to the making of the proposed order within the above period by writing to the Secretary of State, National Transport Casework Team, Tyneside House, Skinnerburn Road, Newcastle Business Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE4 7AR or nationalcasework@dft.gsi.gov.uk, quoting the above reference. In submitting an objection it should be noted that your personal data and correspondence will be passed to the applicant to enable your objection to be considered. If you do not wish your personal data to be forwarded, please state your reasons when submitting your objection.

Denise Hoggins
Department for Transport

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TRUST IS A MUST Professional, honest, single Rushden mum, 43, own home, 5'2'', dark hair, enjoys the simple things in life, simply seeking a trustworthy, helpful man, to share a loving, happy future together. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 148573 or send a text to 80361**

INTO THE SUNSET Flexible, fun-loving Rugby lady, 49, would like to meet an honest, laid back guy, for good times, companionship and hopefully more in the future. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 154857 or send a text to 80361**

FRIENDSHIP ONLY Youthful, reliable, honest, straight Northampton female 51, would like to meet male & female friends to socialize with. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 158485 or send a text to 80361**

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IN THE MOOD FOR ROMANCE Easygoing, caring woman, 53, 5'5'', slim build, enjoys eating out, the theatre and travelling, would like to meet a humorous, educated gentleman, of a similar age, to share interests and more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 157445 or send a text to 80361**

GLAD TO MEET YOU Attractive, N/S, out-going lady, 55, sociable, GSOH, enjoys going to the theatre, animals, sports and country-side, looking for a similar, tall, attractive male for companionship and maybe more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 151613 or send a text to 80361**

IF YOU'RE THE ONE Active, attractive, professional female, 55, 5'1'', auburn-hair, hazel-eyes, seeking a friendly and honest, good-looking guy, for friendship, company and hopefully more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 134415 or send a text to 80361**

POTENTIAL SOUL MATE Semi-retired, widowed nurse, 57, likes swimming, cooking, walking and gardening, looking for friendship, company and possibly more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 151061 or send a text to 80361**

COMPANION SOUGHT Cheerful, friendly, intelligent, honest Rugby lady, 62, 5'7''. Enjoys dancing, playing bridge, scrabble, bowling, reading, history and more. Seeks tall, intelligent man for friendship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 162563 or send a text to 80361**

CHASING DREAMS Warm-hearted, feminine and secure Daventry female, 64, 5'2'', enjoys nights out, cinema and walking the dog, now searching for a stable, energetic man, for friendship and maybe more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 148489 or send a text to 80361**

FRIENDSHIP CAN BRING HAPPINESS Kind-hearted, easygoing, widowed Northampton woman, 66, enjoys reading, dog walks and occasional nights out, simply searching for a kind, honest male, for friendship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 156627 or send a text to 80361**

LET'S DO DINNER Retired, caring Northampton lady, 67, enjoys dining out, aqua aerobics and soul music, would like to meet a kind, honest, reliable male, to share quality time together and see what happens. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149483 or send a text to 80361**

GOOD COMPANY REQUIRED Kind-hearted Rugby female, 72, would like to meet a sincere, considerate male, aged 65-75, for good company, great conversation and a lasting friendship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 153687**

DANCE ALL NIGHT Christian lady, 73, keen cyclist, seeks dance partner for modern ballroom and latin american classes. Any level of dancing is welcome. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 151151 or send a text to 80361**

I'M READY FOR LOVE Friendly, reliable Rugby man, 30, 6'3'', with GSOH, interested in art, photography and drumming, would like to meet a woman, with similar interests, for a long term relationship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149827 or send a text to 80361**

MAKE YOU HAPPY Professional, friendly Wellingborough man, 48, 5'9'', brown hair, enjoys meals out, socialising and having a good laugh, seeking a like-minded female, for friendship, fun and see how things go. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 150674**

LOOKING FOR LASTING ROMANCE Easygoing, romantic Kettering male, 50, 6ft, medium build, enjoys cosy evenings in and cooking, looking for a similar female, to care for and love each other. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 149438 or send a text to 80361**

LIFE-LOVING LIKE ME? Lonely, honest, caring male, 54, looking to find someone I can share my life with and look after. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 151117 or send a text to 80361**

MADE TO BE HAPPY WITH YOU Sociable, solvent Rugby male, 56, 5'10'', enjoys keeping fit, nights in and out, holidays abroad and the cinema, seeking a sincere female, age 50-60, to share quality time and maybe more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 158026 or send a text to 80361**

JUST LOOKING FOR ROMANCE Romantic, professional, handsome male, 59, N/S, own house, car and business, honest, tactile and lovely open personality, seeks a female, for long term relationship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 158935 or send a text to 80361**

LET'S SHARE THE GOOD THINGS Friendly, divorced Wellingborough male, 59, 6ft, N/S, would like to meet an Asian or African woman, age 40-60, to settle down with and share a happy future. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 155146 or send a text to 80361**

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YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED Romantic, professional, trustworthy Market Harborough male, 59, own home and car, no ties, GSOH, N/S, would like to meet an open and honest woman, for a lasting and loving relationship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 156664 or send a text to 80361**

LOOKING FOR MY LOVE Young-at-heart Northampton male, 60, 5'4'', medium build, enjoys fishing, the countryside and walking on the beach, looking for a sincere female, to share interests and a loving relationship. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 154725 or send a text to 80361**

CHEERS TO US! Well-travelled, divorced Kettering male, 62, GSOH, 6'1'', medium build, enjoys the countryside, gardening and long drives, would like to meet a tall, slim, attractive lady, for future happiness. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 153644 or send a text to 80361**

GET TOGETHER Divorced, naturist male, 62, enjoys weekends away, swimming, evenings in, seeks female to share lifestyle with. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 152936 or send a text to 80361**

LEADING TO LOVE...??? Youthful, fit, kind-hearted Wellingborough male, 64, would like to meet a younger female companion, for friendship and possibly more in the future. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 156898 or send a text to 80361**

ARE YOU OUT THERE? Athletic Northampton man, 66, N/S, 6'1'', own home, full head of hair, enjoys dancing, socialising, laughs, looking for a slim, N/S lady who enjoys life to the fullest. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 152940 or send a text to 80361**

ORDINARY GUY Easygoing Northampton male, 72, N/S, enjoys the simple things in life, searching for a laid back, friendly woman, of a similar age, to share happy times together. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 153462 or send a text to 80361**

LONELY BUT WISHFUL Down-to-earth, friendly 74 year old Wellingborough male. Would like to meet a lady for companionship and to enjoy quality time together, having been widowed. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 162556**

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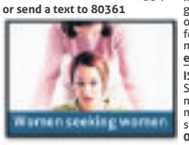

BROWN EYED GIRL Caring, sensitive, brown eyed Daventry woman, 36, 5'5'', brunette, enjoys cosy nights in with a good film, would like to meet a similar woman, for friendship, possibly more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 158165 or send a text to 80361**

DAY TRIP Bubbly, kind Bedford woman, 69, 5'6'', young outlook on life, would like to meet female friends, for socialising, music concerts, meals out and more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 160078**

SEARCHING FOR A SPECIAL LADY Laid back, considerate male, 53, would like to meet a sincere, reliable lady, for fun, friendship and hopefully more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 158035 or send a text to 80361**

INFINITE POSSIBILITIES Happy go lucky male, 53, good sense of humour, looking for a male, for fun, friendship and hopefully more. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 161403**

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE? Sincere, kind-hearted Bedford male, 58, 5'5'', would like to meet a CD or TV, for fun, friendship and perhaps love. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 157287**

LOTS MORE TO SAY Easy going, fit, widowed Aylesbury male, 68, 6ft, enjoys the simple things in life, would like to meet a friendly gent, for fun, companionship and maybe more in the future. **Call 0906 403 0737 and enter box number 153481**

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

New home sales increase by 50-per-cent for Jelson Homes

Just four weeks into the new year Jelson Homes is already reporting strong sales at its Carisbrooke Grange development in Desborough.

The company has, this week, confirmed that sales at its Carisbrooke Grange development increased by a staggering 50-per-cent during November and December, compared with figures for September and October, with no sign of a slowdown in January.

This increase is testament to the well-documented national housing market revival and the resurgence of widespread property confidence, which looks set to gather pace even further in 2014.

A popular choice

Carisbrooke Grange is an attractive and highly sought-after development for all types of buyers and Jackie Woodward, sales manager for Jelson Homes, sums up its appeal and the contribution, she believes, it is having on the housing market in Desborough:

"It's always been a popular choice for purchasers because of the build quality of our homes, the overall layout of the development and the choice of properties available.

Enthusiasm

"Even though we are only just into 2014, we are already witnessing a good level of footfall and an air of enthusiasm to buy among our visitors, which I believe has been further boosted by the government-backed Help to Buy† scheme.

"Help to Buy† is open to all house-hunters and works with just a five-per-cent deposit, which is funded by the purchaser. The government then provides a 20-per-cent equity loan, which is interest free for the first five years.

"The scheme has been helping first-time buyers and those looking to move further up the property ladder with greater financial ease, and as our homes are well designed for all types of buyer, particularly families, it's been a financial lifeline for many."

The properties currently available at Carisbrooke Grange include a fine selection of attractive three- and four-bedroom detached family homes, and with prices ranging from £194,950 to £289,950, it couldn't be a better time to move with one of the region's most popular developers.

An interior of a typical Jelson home.

Jelson Difference

What makes Jelson so different from other housebuilders is the company's very own unique selling point: the 'Jelson Difference' which includes trademark features including solid internal walls, carpets and floor coverings throughout each of its homes, plus fitted kitchens from Jelson's own workshop and Jelson-made PVCu windows.

To find out more about the homes available at Carisbrooke Grange, off Pipewell Road, Desborough, visit the show home, open 11am–5pm, Friday–Monday. Alternatively, contact the on-site sales office: 01536 763306 | jelson.co.uk

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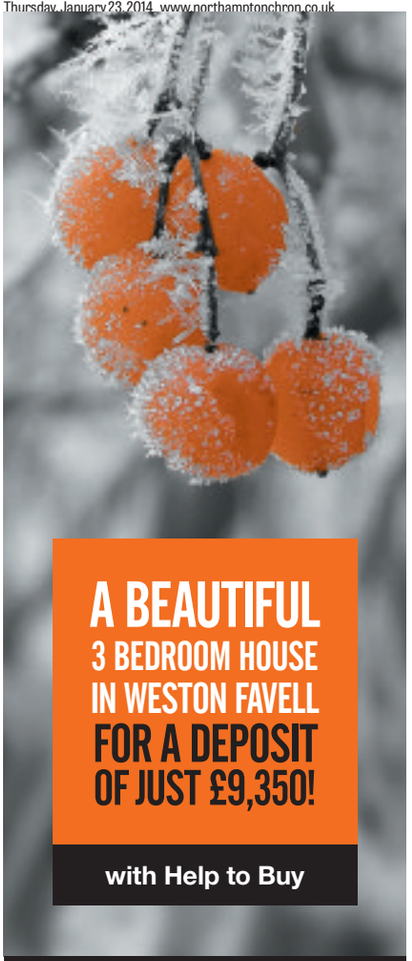
*Subject to scheme limits – please ask for details. **On selected plots; please ask for details. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. †Help to Buy is available on all homes, with a purchase price up to £600,000, subject to status and affordability criteria, terms and conditions apply. The Help to Buy scheme is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. **YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER DEBT SECURED ON IT**. Images depict street scenes of typical Jelson homes and are not representative of any specific property offered for sale. Furniture shown is not included.



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JOBS

ACCOUNTANCY

emlc

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Salary: 23 – 28k

EMLC Academy Trust is part of the EMLC Group: EMLC is an innovative charity whose objective is 'the advancement of education, particularly through leadership'. EMLC Academy Trust was incorporated in July 2012 as a trust and an independent company limited by guarantee with the purpose of establishing, maintain, managing and developing academies and free schools as world class centres of excellence.

As a thriving group, we continue to expand, develop and improve and as such we are seeking an ambitious Finance Assistant for EMLC & EMLC Academy Trust. The post will involve playing a key role in the financial administration of the charity and trusts activities.

The main duties include:

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- Provide support to the academy bursars.
- Occasional academy visits to perform financial internal audit.
- Assist Financial Controller with month-end activities.

Previous financial experience is essential although not in a school environment and AAT qualified (or similar) is preferable.

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For further details and an application pack, please email Ruhena Mahmood on ruhena.mahmood@emlcacademytrust.co.uk

The closing date for applications is 24th January 2014 and interviews will be held on 31st January 2014.

ACCOUNTANCY

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JOBS

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SPORT

Cardoza's need for secrecy

Chairman says 'one or two things' need to happen in search for new boss

FOOTBALL

Cobblers chairman David Cardoza has explained the reasons behind the secrecy that is shrouding the club's search for a new manager.

The Town owner confirmed on Monday that caretaker boss Andy King will remain in charge of first-team affairs for the forseeable future.

And Cardoza stressed that 'one or two things need to happen' before any concrete progress can be made in the recruitment of a replacement for Aidy Boothroyd, who was sacked on December 21.

"We're as we were and Andy King is still very much in charge," said Cardoza.

"We're still talking to a number of people and waiting for one or two situations to unfold.

"Once we've done that we'll be in a situation to appoint someone but we won't be rushed. One or two things need to happen.

"Certain situations we just can't mention, because of the managers we are speaking to. We want to be more open about it but we can't at the moment."

Cardoza did also confirm that 'significant' funds will be made available to the new manager.

Town currently have the fifth highest playing budget in Sky Bet League Two but that is due to be increased during the current transfer window.

"The new manager will have significant support to strengthen the squad," he said. "We need to get out of the bottom two as quickly as possible."

"Significant money will be made available."

Meanwhile, King insists he is happy to remain in caretaker charge of the Cobblers and that his sole focus is on producing results 'for the good of the club'.

"I don't have a view," he said. "I'm enjoying being in charge and having the opportunity but I'm really just thinking about winning the next football match for the good of the club.

"It's nice to win football matches, it was lovely to get that feeling at Newport.

"Selfishly I want to win games but I also want to win them for the good of the club and for the good of the people connected with it.

"You only have certain choices and I am happy to be in charge."

Town go into their home game against Chesterfield on Saturday five points adrift of safety at the foot of Sky Bet League Two.

The match will be a fifth in charge for King.

TAKING HIS TIME – Cobblers chairman David Cardoza

Hartley eager for Challenge Cup success

RUGBY

SAINTS skipper Dylan Hartley is looking forward to having a real go at winning the Amlin Challenge Cup after his team dropped into Europe's second tier competition.

Northampton were eliminated from the Heineken Cup after finishing second to Leinster in Pool 1 and missing out on a best runners-up spot.

They will now travel to Sale Sharks in the last eight of the Amlin-sponsored tournament on the first weekend of April as they bid to keep hopes of a final appearance alive.

Saints would host either Stade Francais or Harlequins in the semi-final should they see off the Sharks, with a showpiece at Cardiff Arms Park beckoning on May 23.

And Hartley, who helped Saints to a 13-3 win against Castres last Friday, is adamant he and his team-mates will be giving it everything they've got to bring home the silverware.

"I said before we went out on Friday not to worry about the maths and just to worry about winning," said the England hooker.

"We couldn't afford to worry about things we couldn't control, but there's another tournament to be played in now, another trophy to win and we'll give it a good crack."

Meanwhile, Tom Mercey has been added to the England Saxons squad ahead of the game against Ireland Wolfhounds on Saturday.

The Saints prop comes in for Harlequins' tighthead prop Will Collier, who has left the 23-man group due to injury. Mercey is the fourth Northampton player to be called up by the Saxons, with Alex Waller, Calum Clark and Sam Dickinson also involved.

The Saxons take on Ireland this weekend before travelling to Glasgow to face Scotland A on January 31.

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